

**REMARKS**

Claim 1 has been amended to, first, limit M of the compound of the general formula in claim 1 to Si and Ge and to define R<sup>3</sup> as alkyl of 1 to 4 carbons. Support for the limitation of M is, for example, original claim 14. Support for the limitation of R<sup>3</sup> is, for example, original claim 13.

Claim 61 has been amended to recite a method for preparing a polymer using the compound of claim 1 and to recite hydrolyzing the compound of claim 1 in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O or D<sub>2</sub>O with a compound which together with the compound of claim 1 forms a polymer with an -M-O-M-O- backbone. Additionally, claim 61 has been amended to recite that the molecular weight is a weight average molecular weight. It is believed that a person of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate from the description, for example, in the paragraph bridging pages 52 and 53 where reference is made to the compounds having a "...weight between 1000 and 5000..." (see line 3 of the above-identified paragraph) that weight average molecular weight is intended.

The remaining claims have been amended to correct inconsistencies and informalities.

The claims as amended are believed to avoid the 35 U.S.C. § 101; 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and 35 U.S.C. § 102

rejections and to place this application in condition for allowance. A formal notice of allowability is respectfully requested.

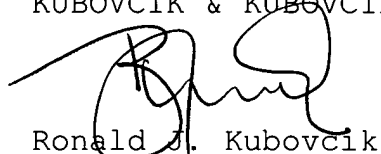
If, however, minor issues remain that can be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

In the event any additional fees are required, please also charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

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